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Charles-John S. Fontillas

La Petite Marie de Normandie

"Little Maria of Normandy"

Cantata Epic for Choir, Orchestra, and Two Accordions

(First three movements only)

- I. THE LANDING
- II. FUNERAL FOR A FOREVER-DREAMING WARRIOR
- III. LA PETITE MARIE DE NORMANDIE

This composition is a thesis presented to the faculty of
Western Washington University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for
the Master of Music degree.

Composed 2016-2017

Kathleen L. Kitto, Dean of the Graduate School

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Master's Thesis

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-Charles-John Sanchez Fontillas
May 4th, 2017

Charles-John S. Fontillas

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Preface

Author Ken Robinson once said that "creativity is putting your imagination to work, and it's produced the most extraordinary results in human culture." I believe this to be undeniable.

In both my childhood and my adulthood I have enjoyed the imagination of others. I was always delighted to see the old *Tom and Jerry* cartoons from the 1950's and 1960's, I thoroughly enjoyed Disney movies as well as Disney cartoons that were aired on "The Disney Afternoon" in the early 1990's when I was in elementary school. Also, I enjoyed Chuck Palahniuk's story *Fight Club* as well as a whole variety of anime with various themes, concepts, stories, and characters. Plus, let's not forget my neverending enjoyment of video games from then and now.

These examples above, with the addition of many others, are indeed the extraordinary results in human culture that Ken Robinson mentions. And this all started with the imagination of many individuals. And thanks to imagination being brought to life, it made people feel, and it gave people life-enhancing memories, and inspiration. Some were even inspired enough to utilize their own imaginations and create worlds of their own.

This is the theme that my piece *La Petite Marie de Normandie* focuses on: imagination.

It is obvious that I applied my imagination to this whole work, using symbolism throughout by using certain composition techniques and various harmonic material. For instance, ascending chords in the strings, piano and celesta to signify going to Heaven, loud cluster chords made by the orchestra are utilized to a 21-gun salute, and the harp is being used to depict how beautiful the titular character is.

Furthermore, my original story that is told in this piece depicts the importance of how an active imagination can be helpful to one's own life.

At the start of this piece, we meet our first character, Second Lieutenant Donald "Dodger" Charleston, an officer of the US Army 2nd Rangers sent to Normandy Beach on June 1944. In the heat of battle, Dodger escapes the line of fire to plant a seed-looking rock beneath the bloodied sand, hoping and praying (in his own manically-induced imagination), that something will grow out of this seed and if found, make someone happy someday in that land of misery. This fictional account on D-Day is presented in the piece's first movement, *The Landing*.

The Second Lieutenant and eventually retired Lieutenant Colonel Dodger is finally laid to rest at age 95 in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania. Devastated that he lost his playmate in life, his grandson, George Charleston, weeps and is even in denial that his favorite grandfather has passed away. This event and the hereditary trait of vivid imaginations are portrayed in the second movement, *Funeral for a Forever-Dreaming Warrior*.

Months after his grandfather's funeral, George and his family heads to France for a vacation. One of the places they visit is the same beach that Dodger was 72 years before, fighting for his life and others'. On the beach, lonely little George's imaginative mindset creates the title character, Maria, a tiny angel-like fairy who has the physical and mental maturity of a 30-year-old woman, in his mind, and actually forms an exclusively imaginary, loving, platonic relationship with her in the beginning. He initially "discovers" her in the same seed-like rock his grandfather planted in battle. This scene takes place in the third and titular movement.

Imagination is key to this whole work. And even though this edition only contains the first three movements, the utmost important characters in this story are introduced and solidify the theme of imagination for the whole work.

My overall objective for this music is to send the message that imagination can be a life-saving mental medicine for many. There are thousands, if not, millions, of people who rely on their imagination just to make their days more bearable. Think of the ones who love their favorite comic book characters, musicians (fictional or non-fictional), or storybook characters. This kind of love for people in their mind helps people function positively every day. In my work, George creates a character in his mind that loves him dearly, and it makes him very happy. I believe this counts as taking care of one's self.

To conclude, in the future, the completion of this whole work, which will have 13 additional movements, will portray the struggle of personal maturity and questioning whether or not to hang on to one's imagination or "grow up", due to social pressures. This particular struggle will actually distort one's process of thought and also produce chaotic scenes in the imaginative part of one's mind.

Near the actual end of the 16-movement version of this piece, I will portray the evolution of George's imagination as well as his psychosis he experiences later in his adulthood.

For now, however, enjoy the beginning of this piece involving the process of taking care of one's self through imagination.

Whenever you feel like you are in hell, create some kind of heaven in your head. George does, and it saves his life.

...in the beginning, at least.

Instrumentation

Duration: 19 minutes, 40 seconds.

The score is transposed. Please tune to A440.

Woodwinds

1 piccolo
2 flutes
2 oboes
1 English horn
3 B♭ clarinets
1 B♭ bass clarinet
1 bassoon
1 contrabassoon

Brass

2 French horns
2 B♭ trumpets
2 trombones
1 euphonium
1 tuba

Percussion

3 percussionists
-Timpani (Tuning: E2, G2, B3, D3)
-Percussion I: Snare drum, tam-tam, crash cymbals, vibraphone, glockenspiel, suspended cymbal, mark tree
-Percussion II: Bass drum, tubular bells, crotales, snare drum, triangle

Percussion guide

Harp

Keyboards

Celesta
Piano

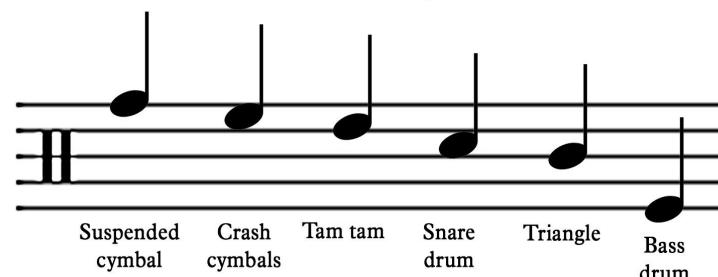
2 accordions (Seated at the front of the orchestra)

Choir

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

Strings

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello
Contrabass



La Petite Marie de Normandie

"Little Maria of Normandy"

Charles-John S. Fontillas

I. THE LANDING

J = 110

1 5 10 15

Charles-John S. Fontillas

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A

16

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob. 1, 2

Eng. Hn.

Cl. 1, 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Tpt. 1, 2

Timp.

Pno.

20

mf
a2

mf
a2

mf

mf
a3

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

f

Solo

mp

25

二

26

B

Hn. - - - - - *f* a2

Tpt. 1, 2 - - - - - a2 *f*

Tbn. 1, 2 - - - - - *f*

Euph. - - - - - *f*

Tba. - - - - - *f*

Tim. - - - - - *f*

Perc. 1 - - - - - (To snare drum)

Perc. 2 - - - - - (To crash cymbals)

S. - - - - - *f* ah ah ha ah

A. - - - - - *f* ah ah ha ah

T. - - - - - *f* ah ah ha ah

B. - - - - - *f* ah ah ha ah

Vln. I - - - - - *p* *f*

Vln. II - - - - - *p* *f*

Vla. - - - - - *p* *f*

Vc. - - - - - *p* *f*

Cb. - - - - - *p* *f*

35

B

39

40

45

Tim.

Perc. 1

S.D.

Perc. 2

S.

A.

T.

B.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

divisi

unison

divisi

48 **C**

Picc. *p* *f*

Fl. 1, 2 *p* *f*

Ob. 1, 2 *p* *f*

Eng. Hn. *p* *f*

Cl. 1, 2, 3 *a3* *p* *f*

B. Cl. *p* *f*

Bsn. *p* *f*

Cbsn. *p* *f*

Hn. *p* *f*

Tpt. 1, 2 *p* *f*

Tbn. 1, 2 *p* *f*

Euph. *p* *f*

Tba. *p* *f*

Timp. *mp*

Perc. 1 *f* *pp*

Perc. 2 *mp*

Crash cymbals *L.V.*

51

Cel. *ff* *pp*

Pno. *ff* *mf*

S. *f*

A. *f*

T. *f*

B. *f*

C

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

Cb. *unison* *p*

57

Picc. Fl. 1,2 Ob. 1,2 Eng. Hn. Cl. 1, 2 ,3 B. Cl. Bsn. Cbsn.

Hn. Tpt. 1, 2 Tbn. 1, 2 Euph. Tba.

Tim. Perc. 1 Perc. 2

Vln. I Vln. II Vla. Vc. Cb.

60

mp

p

mf

s.d.

gliss.

64

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob. 1, 2

Eng. Hn.

Cl. 1, 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn.

Tim.

Perc. 1

(To tam-tam)

Perc. 2

(To bass drum)

Bass drum

Pno.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

D ♩=90

65

70

75

Musical score for Cellos (Cel.) and Piano (Pno.). The score consists of two systems of music. The top system for Cellos starts with a rest in measure 76, followed by eighth-note patterns. Measure 80 begins with a forte dynamic (f) and eighth-note pairs. Measure 85 concludes with a melodic line. The bottom system for Piano starts with eighth-note patterns in measure 76, followed by sustained notes and rests. Measures 80 and 85 feature sustained notes under the heading "Ped." (pedal). The score is in common time, with key signatures changing between measures.

7

E

88 $\text{♩} = 75$ 90

Cel.

Pno

Accord. 1

Accord. 2

95

100

mf

8^{th}

F

105

accel.

Tim

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pno

Accord. 1

Accord. 2

II. FUNERAL FOR A FOREVER-DREAMING WARRIOR

9

124 $\text{♩} = 80$

Cel. $\left\{ \begin{matrix} \text{Cel.} \\ \text{Bassoon} \end{matrix} \right.$

125

H

130 mf

Vln. I f (Solo - One player) Wide vibrato Ord. Wide vibrato

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Unis. ord. vibrato mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

=

134

Timpani

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

135

I

Triangle f

140

Cel. p f

Pno

S.

A.

T.

B.

Here, here lies the war-ri - or of a thou-sand dreams

I

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

J

10

143

Picc. *mf*

Fl. 1, 2 *mf*

Ob. 1, 2 *mf*

Eng. Hn. *mf*

CL 1, 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

145

150

149

Hn. *mp*

Tpt. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2 *mp*

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 1 *mp*

Perc. 2

Snare drum (To vibraphone)

Tubular bells *mf*

Pno. *mf*

S.

A.

T. *mf*

Here, here lies the war-ri - or as my hea-rt bleeds.

B. *mf*

Here, here lies the war-ri - or as my hea-rt bleeds.

J

Vln. I *pp* *mf*

Vln. II *pp* *mf*

Vla. *pp* *mf*

Vc. *pp* *mf*

Cb. *pp* *mf*

11

153

155

160

K

Vibraphone

f

Bass drum

mp

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 (To bass drum)

Hp

Cel.

Pno

S. He fought for peace

A. He fought for peace

T. He fought for peace

B. He fought for peace

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

(Reo.)

165

Tim.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

(To crash cymbal)

170

Cel.

Pno.

S.

fought for peace____ Now, let him rest in what he_fought for. ooh____ mon -

A.

fought for peace____ Now, let him rest in what he_fought for. ooh____ mon -

T.

fought for peace____ Now, let him rest in what he_fought for. Oh my grand-pa please don't go! who will be my cap-tain now as I fight mon -

B.

fought for peace____ Now, let him rest in what he_fought for. Oh my grand-pa please don't go! who will be my cap-tain now as I fight mon -

Vln. I

mf

Wide vibrato

Vib. ord.

Vln. II

mf

Non vibrato

Vibr. ord.

Non vibrato

Vla.

mf

Vc.

mf

sul pont.

p-f

sul pont.

p-f

Cb.

13

175

Picc. *f*

Fl. 1, 2 *f*

Ob. 1, 2 *f*

Eng. Hn.

Cl. 1, 2, 3 *f*

B. Cl. *f*

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn. *f*

Tpt. 1, 2 *f*

Tbn. 1, 2 *f*

Euph. *mp*

Tba. *mp*

L

180

p

Tim.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pno. *f*

S. sters? Mon-sters who will burn our forts, ru-in ca-stles in our land Grand-pa pleasecome back! Come back Come back

A. sters? Mon-sters who will burn our forts, ru-in ca-stles in our land Grand-pa pleasecome back! Come back Come back

T. sters? Mon-sters who will burn our forts, ru-in ca-stles in our land Grand-pa pleasecome back! Come back Come back

B. sters? Mon-sters who will burn our forts, ru-in ca-stles in our land Grand-pa pleasecome back! Come back Come back

Vln. I Wide vibrato Ord. vib.

Vln. II Ord. vib. Non vib. Wide vib.

Vla. *f*

Vc. sul pont. *p* *f*

Cb.

L

III. LA PETITE MARIE DE NORMANDIE

15

198 $\text{♩} = 100$ 200

Picc. *f*

Fl. 1, 2 *f*

Ob. 1, 2 *f*

Eng. Hn. *f*

Cl. 1, 2, 3 *f*

B. Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f*

Cbsn. *f*

205

M 210

Hn. *mf* *p* *pp*

Tpt. 1, 2 *mf* *p* *pp*

Tbn. 1, 2 *mf* *p* *pp*

Euph. *mf* *p* *pp*

Tba. *mf* *p* *pp*

S. *pp* *f*

A. *pp* *f*

T. *pp* *f*

B. *pp* *f*

Speak casually

$\text{♩} = 100$

Vln. I arco *mp* *f*

Vln. II arco *mp* *f*

Vla. $\frac{5}{4}$ arco *mp* *f*

Vc. $\frac{3}{4}$ arco *mp* *f*

Cb. $\frac{3}{4}$ arco *mp* *f*

M

223

Picc. 3 3 5 3

Fl. 1,2 3 3 5

Ob. 1,2 5

Eng. Hn.

Cl. 1,2,3 a3 f

B. Cl. mp f

Bsn. mp f

Cbsn. mp f

Hn. a2 3 3

Tpt. 1,2 mp f

Tbn. 1,2 gliss. mp

Euph. mp

Tba. mp

Cel. mp

Pno. f p mp

S. p Stop talking

A. p Stop talking

T. p Stop talking

B. p Stop talking

Vln. I arco p

Vln. II arco p

Vla. arco p

Vc. pizz. > > > p arco mp

Cb. arco pizz. > > > mp arco

N = 85

N = 85

237

Cel. *f*

Pno. *f*

Vln. I pizz. *f*

Vln. II pizz. *f*

Vla. pizz. *f*

Vc. pizz. *f*

Cb. pizz. *f*

240

245

246

Hp. *f*

Cel. *p*

Pno. *p*

Vln. I 3/8 *8va*

Vln. II 3/8

Vla. 3/8

Vc. 3/8

Cb. 3/8

250

O =85

O =85

255 molto accel.

Hp. 3/8

molto rit.

3/8

molto accel.

3/8

molto rit.

6/8

260

273

275 **Q**

Cel. *mf*

Pno. *3* *mp*

S. Beau_____ Beau_____ quel_____ est vo-tre nom?

A. Beau_____ Beau_____ quel_____ est vo-tre nom?

T. Mon_____ nom, Mo - n_____ nom est_____ George_____ *3*
B. Mon_____ nom, Mo - n_____ nom est_____ George_____ qu-el est vo-tre

Vln. I **Q**

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

290 **R**

Picc. *mp* *f* *3*

Fl. 1, 2 *f* *6*

Cel. *a2* *tr* *tr* *tr* *300*

Pno. *#*

S. Ma - ri - a!

A. Ma - ri - a!

T. nom?

B. nom?

315

Accord. 1

320

Accord. 2

=

324

325

T

330

Bsn.

Hn.

Hp.

Cel.

Pno.

Accord. 1

Accord. 2

23

332

Picc.

Ob. 1,2

Eng. Hn.

Tpt. 1,2

Tba.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vibraphone (To glockenspiel)

Tubular Bells

Hp

Accord. 1

Accord. 2

Vla.

342

Picc.

Cl. 1,2,3

B. Cl.

Cbsn.

Perc. 2

(To crotales)

Crotales

Accord. 1

Accord. 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vc.

335

a2

f

mf

mf

f

Vibraphone (To glockenspiel)

Tubular Bells

p

p

f

f

340

f

345

a3

f

f

sul pont.

f

sul tasto

f

353

Fl 1, 2 *f*

Tbn 1, 2 *p* *f* *p* *f*

U

355

Glockenspiel (To mark tree)

Perc. 1 (To tubular bells)

Perc. 2

Accord. 1

Accord. 2

S. *mf* Ah Ah Oh

A. *mf* Ah Eee

T. *mf* Oh Ah

B. *mf* Oh Ooh

Cb. **U** *f* Wide vibrato

366

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

S. Oh Oh Eee Eee Ah Ah

A. Eee Eee Eee Oh Oh Ah Ah

T. Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah

B. Ooh Ooh Ooh ooh ooh Ah Ah

V = 80

370

375

Mark tree L.V. L.V. (To snare drum)

f Tubular bells L.V. L.V. (To bass drum)

f *f*

380

Cb. **V** = 80

381 Solo

Tpt 1, 2 *mf*

Timp *mf*

Perc. 1 S.D. *mf*

Perc. 2 Bass drum

S. *f* Oui, George

A. *f* Oui, George

T. Ma - ri Ma - ri - a?

B. Ma - ri Ma - ri - a?

=

390

Timp *p*

Perc. 1 *p*

Perc. 2 *p*

Hp *mp*

Pno *p*

S. Que - lle?

A. Que - lle?

T. Vien - drez vous a - vec moi chez moi?

B. Vien - drez vous a - vec moi chez moi?

W

26

396

molto accel.

400

W

♩ = 80

Timpani: *pp*, *f*

Perc. 1: *f*

Perc. 2: *f*

Hp: *p*

Pno: *p*, *mf*

S: *mf*, Que - lle? Oui, che- rie

A: *mf*, Que - lle? Oui, che- rie

T: *mf*, Vien - drez vous a - vec moi chez moi?

B: *mf*, Vien - drez vous a - vec moi chez moi?

404

(To tam-tam)

405

rit.

410

♩ = 110

Perc. 2: (To tam-tam)

Hp: B[#] F[#]

Cel: *f*

Pno: *f*

S: Oui!

A: Oui!

Vln. I: *p*

Vln. II: *p*

Vla: *p*

Vc: *p*

Cb: *p*

27

X

413 415 420

Picc. Fl. 1,2 Ob. 1,2 Eng. Hn. Cl. 1,2,3 B. Cl. Bsn. Cbsn.

Hn. Tpt. 1,2 Tbn. 1,2 Euph. Tba.

Perc. 2 Cel. Pno. S. A. T. B.

Tam-tam
L.V. (To crash cymbal)

Speak casually
pp

Speak casually
pp

Speak casually
pp

Speak casually
pp

Vln. I Vln. II Vla. Vc. Cb.

454

Hp

F#

f

455

3 3

Cel

(white keys)

Reo

This musical score page contains two staves. The top staff is for the Horn (Hp) and the bottom staff is for the Cello (Cel). Measure 454 begins with a dynamic marking 'f'. The melody consists of eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Measure 455 begins with a dynamic marking 'ff'. The melody continues with eighth-note pairs. Various performance instructions are present: 'F#' above the first measure, '3 3' below the dynamic ff, '(white keys)' above the second measure, and 'Reo' below it. Measure 455 concludes with a fermata over the last note.